ILLINOIS

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Large-scale Digitization Project, 2007.

SEPTEMBER 1966
VOLUME 20
NUMBER 1

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

BULLETIN OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

R Recommended

Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.

M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.

NR Not recommended

SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.

SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

* * *

BULLETIN of the Center for Children's Books. Published by the University of Chicago Press for the University of Chicago, Graduate Library School. Sara I. Fenwick, Supervising Editor; Mrs. Zena Bailey Sutherland, Editor.

Published monthly except August. Subscription rates: per year, $4.50; $3.00 per year each additional subscription to the same address. Single copy, 75¢. Checks should be made payable to the University of Chicago Press. Correspondence regarding the BULLETIN should be addressed to the University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637. All notices of change of address should provide *both* the old and the new address. Subscriptions will be entered to start with the first issue published after order is received.

Second-class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois.

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 20 September, 1966 Number 1

New Titles for Children and Young People

Abrons, Mary Goldwater. For Alice, A Palace; with illus. by Gertrude Barrer-Russell. Scott, 1966. 45p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $2.96 net.

NR
K-2

An oversize read-aloud book with busy-baroque illustrations, the text being in rhyme and arranged by letters of the alphabet, although this is not an alphabet book. "Under the table/ Was only a label; The fan wasn't there, that was plain. Upon it, behind it, She just could not find it, So V stands for searching in VAIN." Alice is taken out to play so that she won't notice the preparations for her party; the party is to be a large one, since Alice is a princess. The two servants work frantically to prepare spaghetti and other goodies; Alice falls in the stream, is put to bed, and wakes in time for the party. The text seems very contrived, and often that is true of the rhyme; the setting seems approximately turn-of-the-century.

Aiken, Conrad. Tom, Sue and the Clock; illus. by Julie Maas. Macmillan, 1966. 32p. (Beginning Reader) Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $3.24 net.

M
1-2

A long narrative poem for the beginning reader, the text almost unbroken by punctuation marks save for a period used once every two or three pages. The black and white illustrations are somewhat distracting with small-detail patterns, although they are basically simple. The poem describes a brother and sister going through a day, with frequent pictures of, or references to, the ticking clock. The writing is quite simple in style, with an occasional rhyme that seems contrived; the text is printed in italics on the two occasions when it describes a story that is being read. Sample: "Tom reads a book with pretty pictures in it/ Sue reads a book with pretty pictures in it/ she is reading it this minute/ there's a picture of a cow/ and a picture of a dog/ and a picture of a horse/ and a picture of a frog. . . ."

Aiken, Joan. Nightbirds on Nantucket; illus. by Robin Jacques. Doubleday, 1966. 215p. $3.25.

R
5-7

A tongue-in-cheek, no-holds-barred adventure story, replete with a cheerful waif, an absent-minded sea captain and his fragile little daughter, a black-hearted villain-spy and his cruel spinster sister, a pink whale and a vaudeville stereotype comic German scientist. Dido, eleven, is picked up out of the sea and sleeps for ten months; she is asked by the captain to be a companion to his little daughter, Dutiful Penitence Casket. The girls come to Nantucket and are treated as slaves by Dutiful's

dreadful aunt—who proves to be an imposter and none other than the villain's wicked sister; Dido is then instrumental in unmasking a plot to shoot Der Professor's transatlantic cannon in a Hanoverian scheme against King James. Naturally, the cannon is towed off by a friendly pink whale. Dripping with quaintnesses and brine and stereotypes and valor and all sorts of things that make the book a romping burlesque.

Allan, Mabel Esther. The Ballet Family; illus. by Whitear. Criterion Books, 1966. 190p. $3.50.

Ad 6-9 A good story about a London family whose whole orientation is to the world of ballet: father is a conductor, Mother and the four children are dancers. When a just-orphaned young cousin comes from Lancashire to live with them, the Garlands don't know what to make of Joan. She knows little about ballet and seems to care less, she is quiet and unfriendly; Anne, who is closest to Joan's age, tries in her responsible way but is rebuffed. When the children report a contest at ballet school, it is Joan who—displaying unsuspected talent as a pianist, artist, and creative innovator—wins the contest with an original ballet idea for which she has chosen the music, written the story, and created sets and costumes. It is too bad that the rather pat quick-success and great-hidden-talent ending weakens the book, because the background is colorful and convincing, characterization is good, and the story has a nice diversity of sub-plots.

Allfrey, Katherine. Golden Island; tr. by Edelgard von Heydekampf Bruehl; illus. by John Kaufmann. Doubleday, 1966. 190p. $3.25.

Ad 5-7 First published in Germany in 1963 under the title Delphinensommer, a fanciful story set on an island in the Aegean Sea. Small Andrula lives alone with her poor, widowed mother; teased by the other children, Andrula takes to solitude. She is befriended by a dolphin, who takes her to a small magical island where she meets, in a series of visits, mermaids, fauns, a centaur, et cetera. By the end of the summer Andrula has gained self-confidence; when her mother remarries and they move away, Andrula has a last affectionate conversation with her dolphin, and they part. The writing is uneven in quality, some of the episodes and passages of dialogue heavy, although most of them move smoothly enough; the real and the fanciful elements are nicely combined. The book won the 1964 German Children's Book Prize.

Appel, Benjamin. Why the Russians Are the Way They Are; with illus. maps by Samuel H. Bryant. Little, 1966. 180p. $4.50.

R 7- A book that gives a good summation of Russian history, describes the revolution and the Communist regime, and discusses many facets of life in the USSR today. The author spent a year in the Soviet Union, after which he polled school children in the United States. As he explains in the preface, the book is meant to answer all the questions the children asked, to correct their misconceptions, and to give the reader some background for an understanding of the attitudes and aspirations of the Russian people. Each chapter is prefaced by a brief list of quoted comments and questions gleaned from the author's investigations into U. S. children's ideas about the Soviet Union. The text is factual, informal, and well-organized; the author is objective in attitude, giving credit for achieve-

ments and criticism for weaknesses, but—for the most part—simply stating facts and giving information.

Baker, Laura Nelson. Cousin Tryg; illus. by Paul E. Kennedy. Lippincott, 1966. 123p. $3.50.

R 5-6 A realistic story about a boy of eleven who, having recently lost his father, resents the nineteen-year-old cousin who comes to help run the farm. Cousin Tryg looks odd, almost albino; he is short; and Noris is sure that he will prove bossy, with no older man to gainsay him. But Noris is wrong: his mother and sister like Tryg, and the shy young man never becomes officious; Noris finds, in fact, that he is ambivalent about Cousin Tryg, that in some ways he needs an older male. When Tryg has a brief romantic interlude, the prospect of his departure makes Noris realize that Tryg has come to be a loved member of the family. Realistic, smoothly written, and giving a good picture of farm life, the book has an appeal that never depends on dramatic incidents, but that results from the perceptive relationships and their realistic development.

Barry, Lucy. Stagestruck Secretary. Morrow, 1966. 192p. $3.50.

Ad 7-10 A junior novel about a girl who, after completing high school and taking a secretarial course, leaves a dull office job and finds work as the office secretary of a Broadway producer. When Mr. Janfield's production secretary falls ill, Patsy goes along to Philadelphia for the tryout. The pressures of her job almost cost her a broken engagement, but Patsy learns that, much as she enjoys the excitement and glamor of the theatre world, she must have a life of her own and her fiancé comes first. Basically, the plot is patterned; the writing style is adequate. The book deviates from the expected because the heroine is not (huzzah for the author) suddenly discovered; it has an undeniable appeal in the authentic details of production frenzy.

Behn, Harry. The Golden Hive; poems and pictures by Harry Behn. Harcourt, 1966. 61p. $3.25.

Ad 4-7 A very pleasant book of poems, many of them on familiar topics: spring, a storm, September, gardening, the first Christmas, et cetera; there are, however, many fresh and imaginative poems. Not all of the selections are outstanding, but none (familiar topic or less-familiar) is meretricious; only a few are rather pedestrian. The format has a quiet dignity, the author's small black and white drawings adding little.

Bergaust, Erik, ed. Illustrated Space Encyclopedia. Putnam, 1965. 188p. illus. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.64 net.

R 5- Although not up-to-date (as no space book can be today) this is a useful book of great topical interest. The first section is an alphabetical listing of astronautical terms (circa 2,000) and the second a compilation in chart form (10 double-page spreads) entitled "Condensed Log of Space Projects." These are chronologically arranged, the last entry date being February, 1964. A series of photographs of launch vehicles follows, each full-page picture faced by a page of specifications. The last major portion of the book consists of brief biographies of the astronauts, sketches in which career information and personal information are given. Pages of statistics on the moon and on satellites, and a calendar of future pro-

grams are included. Some of the material requires background for comprehension, but the appeal of the subject and the quick-reference use indicate that the book will have value for upper-elementary readers.

Blassingame, Wyatt. Franklin D. Roosevelt; Four Times President; illus. by Al Fiorentino. Garrard, 1966. 80p. (Discovery Books) $1.98.

Ad 2-4 An adequate first biography of President Roosevelt, despite the quite stilted style; the large print, short sentences, and simple concepts are appropriate for the intended primary audience, and the tone is only slightly adulatory. The author describes Roosevelt's boyhood and schooldays very briefly; the book has a good balance of chronological treatment and a good balance of attention between the President's career and his personal life.

Booth, Esma Rideout. The Village, The City, and The World. McKay, 1966. 282p. $4.95.

R 8- A long novel, written with a dignified simplicity of style, that describes the tension and turmoil of the Congo at the time of independence and of the ensuing conflict in Katanga. Masongo is a teacher in a village school; when he decides to teach in Elizabethville his wife and children are pleased; since Masongo is a Luba and his wife a Lunda, their children have divided tribal loyalties. The fighting and the fear sharpen all hostilities; both Masongo and Sara realize that it is better that their older children study in Europe if they can—and better if they themselves stay in the city—until time has healed the breach between the tribes. Sympathetic but not sentimental, a book that gives a good picture of the conflict between old and new as well as between the tribes; the characterization is excellent and the dialogue good.

Bosworth, J. Allan. White Water, Still Water; illus. by Charles W. Walker. Doubleday, 1966. 160p. $2.95.

Ad 7-9 An adventure story set somewhere in the northwest wilderness. Chris is thirteen, an only child; quiet and dreamy, Chris is a disappointment to the hardy, lively father who wanted a "real boy" who craved excitement and physical challenge, not books. Chris, lying on a raft in a quiet inlet, is swept into the river one day and thus begins a long, lonely and tortuous trip down the white water and back again in a weary trip through the wilderness. Somehow, doggedly, the boy makes his way back; days later, exhausted and hungry, he reaches home. The writing has pace and a sustained suspense through most of the story; toward the close of the book the plot seems to plod a bit.

Brenner, Barbara. The Flying Patchwork Quilt; with illus. by Fred Brenner. Scott, 1965. 42p. $3.50.

R 3-4 A very pleasant fanciful story, nicely illustrated and compactly written. Carl tells the tale of the quilt: his small sister Ellen, a latter-day Daedelus, has tried to fly with paper wings, has tried to fly with balloon attached, has tried to fly via umbrella. And then she tries the patchwork quilt. Carl describes his frantic bicycling around town, trailing his flying sister and trying to convince a few adults . . . but in vain. He comes home to find Ellen caught on a tree-branch, but safe; the magic quilt blows off and is gone. The writing is natural and simple, the story uni-

fied and of a good length for the primary reader; a bonus is the placid and friendly small-town atmosphere that is created as Carl pelts after his airborne sister.

Brown, Marcia Joan. Backbone of the King; The Story of Paka'a and His Son Ku. Scribner, 1966. 180p. illus. Trade ed. $4.50; Library ed. $4.05 net.

R 5-7 A version of an epic story in Hawaiian folk literature, stately in pace and retold in a style that is appropriate for the hero tale. Paka'a is a man of high station: the friend, the advisor, the "backbone of the king." Loving and loyal, Paka'a sails away when he is discredited by two jealous courtiers; the major part of the tale describes the long effort made by Hu-a-Paka'a, son of Paka'a, to reinstate his father in his once-high place and to prove to the king how loyal and how proud is his friend. Slow-moving, but that seems, somehow, fitting for the quiet grace of the legend. The linoleum block illustrations are handsome; an extensive glossary is appended.

Bulla, Clyde Robert. More Stories of Favorite Operas; illus. by Joseph Low. T. Y. Crowell, 1965. 309p. $4.50.

R 6-9 A companion volume to Stories of Favorite Operas (Crowell, 1959) in which twenty-three libretti were given in simplified, present-tense narrative form. Here Mr. Bulla adds another twenty-two operas, a volume devoted to the Niebelungenlied having been published separately; the condensations here are in past tense, simply written, and certainly useful. Each story is preceded by a paragraph of background; the book closes with cast lists for the operas and with an index.

Cassedy, Sylvia. Little Chameleon; illus. by Rainey Bennett. World, 1966. 33p. Trade ed. $1.95; Library ed. $2.17 net.

Ad K-2 A very small book with a slight but pleasant theme; the rhythm and cadence of the text are appealing and the illustrations are quite delicious. A small chameleon, sent out into the spring world by its mother, discovers that it adapts to the background color. The plot is weak in that it is based on a single idea, repeated; the style is better than the plot. Little Chameleon steps first into the yellow sand. "Yellow. Yellow is the pollen on the belly of a bee; willow-yellow; lily-yellow; lemon-yellow; yellow as the daffodil/ below the hollow tree. Yellow."

Charlip, Remy. Mother Mother I Feel Sick Send for the Doctor Quick Quick Quick; a picture book and shadow play by Remy Charlip and Burton Supree; with pictures by Remy Charlip. Parents' Magazine, 1966. 41p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $3.03 net.

Ad K-2 A read-aloud story, the illustrations establishing a pattern some pages after the story starts. The text, more or less in rhyme, is pleasant nonsense; the book is prefaced by a suggestion that the "operation" described in the story can be put on as a shadow play. An absolutely round child complains of feeling ill, and his mother calls a doctor. The illustrations, all in silhouette, then are in black and white on the recto page; the facing page is in color. As the doctor operates, a stream of objects is produced (in mounting the shadow play, the objects are hidden in the box on which the patient lies) and they accumulate at mother's feet on the verso page: a bicycle, a potted plant, a rabbit, a pair of galoshes,

et cetera. Very gay to see, and quite amusing. The book has tall-tale appeal, and it may stimulate a home performance, but it is weakened by being slow to start and by a rather flat ending.

Cone, Molly. Crazy Mary; illus. by Bea Holmes. Houghton, 1966. 135p. $3.

Ad 7-9

Mary hadn't been sure, as a high school senior, what she wanted to study in college; one thing she didn't want, she was certain, was a musical career. Her domineering mother assumed that Mary would attend her own alma mater and that she would become a professional musician. Rejected by her mother's college, Mary tried sociology, tried art classes, then realized that she really wanted to become an engineer. The choice made, Mary found that she was secure in her decision and was for the first time not apprehensive about having her mother say, "Mary, that's crazy." The emphasis here is on career aptitude, but the strength of the story is in the perceptive relationships: the strong mother, the competitive younger sister, Mary's college friends, and the boy friend whose masculine pride needs to be buttressed by a conviction that Mary is intellectually inferior.

Corbett, Scott. What Makes a Light Go On? pictures by Len Darwin. Atlantic-Little, Brown, 1966. 56p. $2.95.

R 4-6

An excellent introductory book on electricity; the illustrations are very clear, well-placed and adequately captioned. Mr. Corbett uses lucid analogies and familiar phenomena in explaining the movement within an atom, magnetic attraction and repulsion, and the nature of electricity. He describes the functioning of a generator, and explains the workings of flashlights and of electric light bulbs. The terminology is accurate but is never more complex than is necessary; the text includes a discussion of the necessity for caution and precaution. A combined index and glossary is appended.

Damjan, Mischa. Atuk; pictures by Gian Casty. Pantheon Books, 1966. 27p. Trade ed. $3.25; Library ed. $3.19 net.

M K-3

First published in Switzerland in 1964, an oversize book that has interesting full-color and full-page illustrations that have the quality of primitives with a delicate use of color. The story line tends to fade away after a good start; the ending seems to be written for a somewhat older audience than does the beginning of the story. Atuk, a small Eskimo, is disconsolate when his father tells him that his pet has been killed by a wolf. Atuk will accept no other pet. Vengefully, he perfects his hunting; and "summers and winters passed" as Atuk became a fine hunter; one day he spoke to a fox, which told Atuk that he was no longer alone since he had a star for a friend. Then Atuk saw and—at long last—killed the wolf, but he found that he was still lonely; then he saw a delicate flower that said it wanted a friend who would wait until the spring for the time to reappear. The book ends as Atuk promises to wait through the long winter, to admire the flower when it reappears. "I will protect you from the rough wind and I will see that the hunting animals do not read on you. Yes, I will wait for you." Atuk whispers, as he kneels beside the flower. Thus endeth the book, having shifted from a realistic story of a small boy to a lyric and fanciful story of what appears to be a young man.

De Jong, Meindert. Puppy Summer; pictures by Anita Lobel. Harper, 1966. 100p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.79 net.

R 4-6

The theme of children who must part from pets is not unusual, but Mr. De Jong's handling of the theme makes this an unusual book. A small brother and sister are spending the summer at their grandparents' farm; they are told they may have a puppy, and they find it difficult to decide which of three pups to choose. Grandma, who hasn't been enthusiastic at all, is captivated, too, and she agrees to take all three. The rest of the story describes the children's caring for their pets—or shirking the job—and their acceptance of the fact that things won't be quite the same next summer. Quietly written, with a gentle affection that permeates the story, both an affection for the puppies and a sympathetic and quite charming relationship between the children and their grandparents.

Dudley, Martha. Bad Mousie; illus. by Trientja Engelbrecht. Childrens Press, 1966. 36p. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $1.88 net.

NR 3-5 yrs.

A read-aloud book about a little girl, Donica, who had a Bad Mousie. Bad Mousie made mud tracks, drew pictures on the wall with Mommie's lipstick, spilled milk and orange juice. Ad infinitum, ad nauseum. Mommie locked him out, then she put him in a box and put the box in her washtub, then she tied him to the fence so that the owl would get him, then she let the wind blow him away via umbrella. Bad Mousie came back each time; at last he decided to learn to be good, so Donica taught him and now (last illustration) the mailbox says "Mommie Donnie and Mousie!" Last sentence, "And they all lived cosily together." If Bad Mousie is assumed to be a separate animal character, the story seems pointless and saccharine; if Bad Mousie is Donnie's alter ego, Donnie is getting quite a dollop of punishment, not discipline.

Dupuy, Trevor Nevitt. The Military History of World War II; vol. 17; Combat Leaders of World War II. Watts, 1965. 126p. illus. Trade ed. $2.65; Library ed. $1.98 net.

R 6-9

This seventeenth volume in Colonel Dupuy's series of books on the military history of the second World War is a departure from the others. The author states in a prefatory note that in previous volumes opinions have been expressed only when they would clarify facts; here his opinions of military leaders is stressed. Brief, candid, and authoritative (and opinionated) sketches are drawn of the personalities and careers of dozens of combat leaders. The emphasis is on the United States and secondarily on Great Britain; included are a few leaders from the other allied countries and quite a few in the axis forces. Colonel Dupuy does a good job always; here the coverage, the authority, the photographs, and the good index indicate a limited ready reference use in addition to the general interest of the text.

Earle, Olive Lydia. Strange Companions in Nature; written and illus. by Olive L. Earle. Morrow, 1966. 64p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.94 net.

Ad 4-7

A book about symbiotic relationships of plants and of animals, the continuous text illustrated by realistic and detailed drawings, not captioned but well-placed in relation to the pertinent text. The writing is direct and solid; only the fascinating nature of the material itself keeps the book from being dull.

Eiseman, Alberta. Candido; pictures by Lilian Obligado. Macmillan, 1965. 26p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $3.44 net.

Ad K-2 A very attractively illustrated picture book about a small Peruvian boy and his pet llama, Candido. Paco, going to market with his father, wanted to help but he didn't want his pet to work as the other llamas did. His older brothers, left behind to work on the mountain farm, teased Paco; finally the boy decided to train Candido so that he and his llama could both show that they were old enough to do their share. How proud Paco was when his pet was put in line with the other llamas on next market day. The plot is rather slight and the pace sedate, but the combination of unusual setting and familiar situation should have appeal. The illustrations give lovely details of mountain scenes, characterful faces, and costumes of the region.

Farmer, Penelope. Sea Gull; illus. by Ian Ribbons. Harcourt, 1966. 48p. Trade ed. $3.25; Library ed. $3.36 net.

R 4-5 An interesting variant on the child meets animal, loves animal, loses animal theme. Here the child is relieved at losing the creature he had at first hoped would become an unusual pet—a sea gull. Young Stephen, visiting his grandmother in a coastal village, finds an injured gull; Granny, who has often cared for wounded birds, mends the gull's wing. While it is with them, the gull is relaxed with Granny but is hostile and snappish with Stephen. Stubbornly, he insists that he is going to keep the gull, but when it flies away, Stephen realizes that he was a bit afraid of the cruel beak and is glad the wild creature is free. In a great pendulum swing of happiness, the boy races up a hill he'd always been afraid to climb and sits there, permeated with the unexpected feeling of joy and relief. The mood, atmosphere, and dialogue are excellent; the relationship between Stephen and his grandmother sympathetic but utterly realistic. All of these assets are embedded in a sedate, but competent, writing style.

Finley, Virginia. A Cat Called Room 8; by Virginia Finley and Beverly Mason; illus. by Valerie Martin. Putnam, 1966. 60p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.86 net.

M 2-4 A story about a school cat, based on a real happening in a Los Angeles school. A stray cat wandered into room 8, the sixth grade room of the Elysian Heights school in 1952; fed and sent away, the cat persisted in returning and was finally adopted and named in honor of the classroom, Room 8. The book describes some of Room 8's adventures: getting marooned on a roof, being hospitalized, getting publicity on local news media and in a popular magazine. There are two pages of photographs, the rest of the book being illustrated with quite awkward pictures of the cat and the children of the school. Mildly interesting, but lacking action or humor, unattractively illustrated, and written in a tepid style.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. The Cabinetmakers; written and illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Watts, 1966. 47p. (Colonial American Craftsmen) Trade ed. $2.65; Library ed. $1.98 net.

R 5-7 Another excellent book in the series on American crafts of colonial times; as in other volumes, the first section of the book gives some historical background and the second and longer section describes the techniques of the craft. Partly because Mr. Fisher's distinctive illustrative

style lends itself well to the graining of wood, the pictures seem unusually handsome. Two pages of photographs of colonial furniture and a brief index are appended.

Furman, Victoria. Five in a Tent. Parents' Magazine, 1966. 200p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $3.03 net.

Ad 5-7 The story of a twelve-year-old's first experience at a girl's camp at which her older sister has already shown prowess. Harum-scarum Chris knows that she can never win a medal as Helen had the year before, and she is really distressed when she finds herself competing against Helen; relations between the sisters are cool indeed. Chris loves camp. She makes many friends, she learns new skills, she almost gets into serious trouble trying to help the bored and sophisticated daughter of a motion picture star; at the close of the book she and Helen establish a new rapport. Although some themes are followed through, the book is basically an anecdotal account of a camping summer; it is realistic but seems a little overcrowded—both with incidents and with characters. Some of the situations are quite patterned; due to this, and to the occasional sentimental or hortatory note, the story sometimes drags.

Gage, Wilson. The Ghost of Five Owl Farm; illus. by Paul Galdone. World, 1966. 127p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.41 net.

R 5-7 Ted, a sixth grader, was delighted by the family move to a house in the country; he liked the outdoors, he liked the idea that their old house was haunted, and he was delighted to hear that his sisters were both going away for a visit. Gloom set in when he heard that he was not going to have the place to himself, because his odd twin cousins were coming. Winkie and Bobbin: thin, pale, and not quite with it, Ted felt. As the twins and Ted explored the mysterious evidence of Something going on in the barn (ghosts? spies?) it became clear to Ted that his cousins might be odd but they were both courageous and intelligent. The mystery has a logical explanation; the characterization is good, the twins being odd but not exaggerated; the country background is evocatively described; and the story has pace and an economy of construction.

Gayler, Marjorie. It's the New Sound; illus. by Janina Ede. Ginn, 1966. 139p. $3.25.

M 7-9 Published in England in 1965, the story of a family group that climbs to the "tops of the pops" with their new sound in recording. The three brothers play, sister Tess sings; the new sound is the harpsichord effect made by capping the piano hammers. After a falling-out with those in their former group (Denis and the Drumsticks) the family group wins fame as the Jackobeats. There is appeal to some readers in the milieu of the story, but the book is weakened by a plethora of dialogue, some of which masks the giving of information; some of the slangy language may be a drawback: "Poor old china!" is Dad's reference to his aged mother. The print is quite small; the plot is cluttered.

Glubok, Shirley. Art and Archaeology; designed by Gerard Nook. Harper, 1966. 48p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.79 net.

R 5-9 An oversize book, illustrated with photographs in black and white and with a text in two-column format. The author describes, in a continuous

text, some of the archeological treasures found the world over; each country or city is discussed briefly in a few pages of descriptions and photographs. This is not as unified a book as are Miss Glubok's earlier books (The Art of Ancient Egypt, The Art of Africa, etc.) but serves adequately as an introduction to the idea that the art objects retrieved by archeological expeditions have contributed to our knowledge of past times.

Gordon, George N. Your Career in TV and Radio; by George N. Gordon and Irving A. Falk; illus. with photographs. Messner, 1966. 221p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.64 net.

Ad 8-10

A fairly comprehensive and adequately written book in the publisher's career guidance series. The authors suggest some alternative ways of preparatory education, and give—throughout the text—examples of the paths by which some individuals reached their present positions. The book discusses basic training, the work of the performer, director, producer, writer, designer, and so forth; engineers, sales and publicity positions, and various ancillary jobs are described. The book closes with a discussion of educational television, and lists educational television stations by state; a list of scholarships available to broadcasting students and a list of colleges and universities that offer degrees in radio and in television are included; a list of suggested readings and an index are appended.

Gorham, Charles. The Lion of Judah; A Life of Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia. Ariel, 1966. 152p. $3.25.

R 8-10

A very good biography of Haile Selassie I, and a fascinating picture of palace intrigue in Ethiopia at the beginning of this century. The book gives a detailed and admiring description of the Emperor and a most moving picture of the small country's struggle against fascist invasion in 1935. The book surveys briefly Haile Selassie's years of exile and his return to his country, the text concluding with the Emperor's attendance at President Kennedy's funeral. A brief bibliography is appended.

Graves, Charles P. Eleanor Roosevelt; First Lady of the World; illus. by Polly Bolian. Garrard, 1966. 80p. (Discovery Books) $1.98.

Ad 3-4

A simply written biography, with a stilted quality that is hardly avoidable with a controlled vocabulary, but that is compensated for by the objectivity of the author, by the balanced coverage of Mrs. Roosevelt's life, and by the fact that such material is scarce at the primary level. The text is fictionalized, with occasional anecdotes—in some of which the humor seems flat.

Graves, Robert. Ann at Highwood Hall; Poems for Children; illus. by Edward Ardizzone. Doubleday, 1966. 48p. $2.95.

Ad 5-6

An attractively illustrated collection of seven poems, the rather long narrative poem of the title being a romantic tale of a waif (drunken, cruel father and no mother, sob) whose fortunes rose and fell with those of the noble household to which she attached herself. Another long poem is a sophisticated comment on communication; the five short poems vary somewhat: a bit of light sentiment, a bit of light humor, and a bit that is gravely sweet. Pleasant, but not a stunning collection.

Greenberg, Dorothy Rossen. Siege Hero; woodcuts by Robert Borja. Reilly and Lee, 1965. 142p. $3.95.

M 5-7 An adventure story with an historical context, the courageous young hero, Jan, being instrumental in obtaining relief for his besieged Leyden. Young Jan makes his way through the Spanish lines and tells Prince William that Leyden must have relief; in October of 1574, Prince William promises the people of Leyden a reward: the establishment of a university. The material is dramatic, the fictionalization extensive and rather awkward; the book is quite profusely illustrated with handsome wood engravings and woodcuts; the unusual typeface seems crowded and difficult to read.

Gripe, Maria. Pappa Pellerin's Daughter; tr. by Kersti French. Day, 1966. 156p. $3.50.

Ad 6-9 Translated from the Swedish, an interesting story for girls; the title refers to the heroine's name for a scarecrow, but it has a deeper meaning in referring to Loella's real father, a poet who has abandoned his family. Loella cannot remember her father, but longs to see him, love him, and be acknowledged as his child. Her mother is a ship's cook, and Loella has been left alone at the age of twelve to live in a cottage in the woods and to care for her two baby brothers. When her mother next writes, Loella discovers that she is being sent to board at an orphanage for a year while the boys are to be cared for by a friend until their mother returns. Loella slowly adjusts to the orphanage, to urban life, and to the sophistication she meets. When spring comes, Loella and the children go back to their cottage; there a stranger strikes up a conversation and then tells Loella that she is his daughter. The book has an unusual situation, an interesting setting, good characterization, and a candid treatment of relationships and conflicts. It is weak, not in the happy ending, although that is a little pat, but in the areas it leaves unexplained: the relationship between Loella's parents, the mother's casual abandonment of three children, the future relationships between the father who appears at the end of the book and the mother, who is due back after a year or more of absence. There is a reference to the fact that the small twin brothers "Have a different father, after all."

Hagon, Priscilla. Cruising to Danger; illus. by William Plummer. World, 1966. 192p. Trade ed. $3.75; Library ed. $3.61 net.

R 7-10 A good mystery and adventure story, told in first person by Joanna, who has just finished attending a London high school. When she answers an ad that asks for an "ordinary" girl to help care for two children on a cruise, Joanna hears a conversation that makes her realize that she must hide the fact that she has a scholarship to Oxford and pretend to be stupid. She becomes increasingly suspicious of the children's father: suspicious that he is an enemy agent, that he is the cause of his wife's illness, and that he is using his little daughter's dolls as a front for an operation concerning stolen information. The story has pace, suspense, love interest, and the colorful setting of a Mediterranean cruise ship. The author deviates from the patterned mystery for the young reader in having the criminal be the father of two children; it adheres, happily, to a logical development and conclusion based on the premise that Joanna's intelligent apprehensions are correct: no hidden facts, no sudden contrivances.

Hathaway, Polly. The Beginning Knowledge Book of Backyard Flowers; illus. by Raul Mina Mora. Macmillan, 1965. 30p. Trade ed. $1.95; Library ed. $2.04 net.

M 3-6

An oversize book that gives a smattering of general botany and goes on to give planting instructions for eighteen kinds of flowers. The illustrations are adequate but are not consistent, since some are in full color and others are not. The instructions are very clear about depth of planting and about spacing, and additional information varies: some pages give tips on blooming, others on soil or on sunshine. Moderately useful, with the background information adequate for a how-to-do-it book; the material is arranged roughly in order of blooming time, and the text is matter-of-fact in tone.

Higgins, Don. I Am a Boy. Golden Press, 1966. 23p. illus. (Golden Books) $1.99.

Higgins, Don. I Am a Girl. Golden Press, 1966. 23p. illus. (Golden Books) $1.99.

NR 2-4 yrs.

Tall picture books for the very young, these two have one positive contribution: they strike a comfortable note about familiar activities. However, the weaknesses of the book far outweigh this strength: the illustrations are in calendar-art style, verging on penny-valentine, the text is often contrived in style, and some of the text seems adapted to the illustrations. The book is very tightly bound, so that many of the double-page spreads seem distorted, as in the pages in which a balloon is almost lost in the binding, while the text reads, "At the zoo there are beautiful birds. I am showing them my balloon."

Hinchman, Jane. A Talent for Trouble. Doubleday, 1966. 162p. $2.95.

M 7-9

As the title indicates, fifteen-year-old Ann has a talent that has caused her brothers to refer to her as Calamity Ann; here Ann describes the complicated events that ensued from her summer job: bird-sitting. Caring for two finches didn't seem to present problems, but a friend of the birds' owner showed up, and he'd been given permission to use the apartment. He was a television script writer hiding from his agent, and he caused Ann, who was much smitten, to become the subject of wild rumors, and indirectly to run over the agent and a reporter, et cetera. The plot is far-fetched, its excesses mitigated only slightly by humor. Characterization is minimal; dialogue is good.

Hornblow, Leonora. Birds Do the Strangest Things; by Leonora and Arthur Hornblow; illus. by Michael K. Frith. Random House, 1965. 61p. (Step-Up Books) $1.95.

Ad 2-3

A companion volume to Animals Do the Strangest Things. Adequately illustrated, a text that comprises twenty-odd short topics; "The Biggest (The Ostrich); The Flying Jewel (The Hummingbird); Bird About Town (The Pigeon); The Flying Submarine (The Loon). . ." and so on. The sometimes-cute titles are indicative of a corresponding coy note that appears in the text, although the writing is, for the most part, direct and factual; the print is large but quite page-filling; the sentences short and a bit choppy. Since the material is interesting and the topics short, the book should, despite the weakness of style, be useful both as easy-reading non-fiction and as an introduction to nature study or to bird-watching.

Johnson, Crockett. Gordy and the Pirate; and the Circus Ringmaster and the Knight and the Major League Manager and the Western Marshal and the Astronaut; and a Remarkable Achievement. Putnam, 1965. 46p. illus. Trade ed. $2.75; Library ed. $2.68 net.

Ad 3-4

A series of episodes imagined by a small boy named Gordy, very dreams-of-glory and, as the publisher suggests, in the Walter Mitty vein. Gordy's secret life consists of an assortment of incidents in which he is being wooed for some great contribution (a trip to Venus that cannot be made without Gordy, a baseball offer with an astronomical bonus, and so on) but which Gordy must reluctantly turn down. The reason? "I promised to come straight home from school today." And, despite all the daydreaming about great achievements, Gordy does manage to go straight home. For once. The book is mildly amusing, but doesn't quite have the flair of Ellen's Lion or the author's even better-known Harold stories.

Kamm, Josephine. Kings, Prophets and History; A New Look at the Old Testament; with illus. by Gwyneth Cole. McGraw-Hill, 1966. 191p. $3.50.

R 8-

First published in England in 1965 under the title A New Look at the Old Testament. This is a serious, but not stiff or dull, reconstruction of Bible history; the author comments frequently on that which is legend as opposed to fact or to incidents that are partially fact-supported. Unpretentiously devout, the author also points out some instances of Judaic interpretation and some instances of lessons or stories that are not meant to be taken literally. The text skims smoothly through the chronology of the Old Testament, not characterizing in depth, but describing Biblical figures in a candid and familiar mood. The illustrations, chiefly photographs of sites, include some maps; the print is unfortunately quite small.

Kay, Helen. A Stocking for a Kitten; illus. by Yaroslava. Abelard-Schuman, 1965. 40p. $2.95.

Ad K-2

A read-aloud story based on an incident in the author's mother's childhood; the book is attractively and appropriately illustrated with pictures that have Slavic costumes and decorative details. Tanya, hoping that her grandmother's knitting will be Christmas stockings, learns that they are for her oldest sister; the next oldest sister, Olga, is so impatient that grandmother stops working on the stockings meant for her. Grandmother teaches Tanya to knit, showing her how to make a stocking for her kitten; having learned to knit, Tanya quietly finishes the stockings for Olga. Then Tanya understands why her grandmother had thrown the kitten's stocking in the fire: to teach her that a kitten did not need stockings, but a sister did. The story is slow-moving, but it gives a sympathetic picture of the relationship between child and grandmother, especially the acceptance by Tanya of the idiosyncrasies of age.

Kohn, Bernice. One Day It Rained Cats and Dogs; pictures by Aliki. Coward-McCann, 1965. 29p. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.52 net.

Ad 2-4

A small book with pictures that illustrate quite literally such familiar sayings as "light as a feather" or "fit as a fiddle" or "it rained cats and dogs." The rhyming text has a full-page picture for each of its lines; some of the pages are a bit obvious, such as "And Grandpa was smart as a fox" which is accompanied by a picture of a fox in man's clothing

sitting in a rocking chair. Other pages are more imaginative in execution, as in "And the factory worked round the clock," in which the workers are physically around the edge of a clock-face. An amusing book.

Kyle, Elisabeth. Princess of Orange. Holt, 1966. 255p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.59 net.

R 7-10 A good biographical novel based on the life of Mary Stuart, who returned from Holland to become Mary II of England. Mary was bitterly unhappy at her arranged marriage to the stiff-mannered stranger, William of Orange, but she learned to love and respect her husband, later insisting that he share her throne. The book has good historical background, convincing characterization, and a lively and natural style of writing.

Lindgren, Astrid (Ericsson). Springtime in Noisy Village; pictures by Ilon Wikland. Viking, 1966. 31p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.37 net.

R K-3 First published in Denmark in 1965 under the title Vår i Bullerbyn, an attractive sequel to the preceding books about Noisy Village; the illustrations are charming scenes of children, flowers, and animals—scenes with vitality, humor, and a touch of sweetness. Again the description of seasonal ploys is given by Lisa, one of the six compatible children of Noisy Village; here a slightly larger role is given to a seventh child, the very small and beguiling sister of one of the boys.

Luis, Earlene W. Wheels for Ginny's Chariot; by Earlene W. Luis and Barbara F. Millar. Dodd, 1966. 205 p. $3.50.

M 6-9 Ginny is a young teenager who has been permanently crippled in an accident, and who is adjusting to life in a wheelchair and, even more, to the bitter necessity of going to a special school for the handicapped. She does adjust both to the school and to her own handicap with consequent brightening of her life and widening of her social horizons. The intent of the book is utterly worthy, but the story creaks purposively as long conversations are laboriously used to give information. Although it is interesting and important information. There are also occasional moments when an episode or a character in the story seems jarringly to fall out of sequence or out of character. For example, when Ginny's father brings her to her school for the first time, he says to the principal, his look changing "from puzzlement to horror. 'You mean Ginny might sit next to a kid with no arms? Or a kid who drools? Or a kid who has fits?" . . . yet he has been portrayed as a sympathetic and intelligent man, presumably one who would have already had information about the school or at least would have been courteous to the principal.

Lund, Doris Herold. Did You Ever? illus. by Denman Hampson. Parents' Magazine, 1965. 32p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $3.03 net.

NR K-2 A read-aloud book about imaginative play, with rather pedestrian illustrations. On each recto page, the question (asked, presumably, by the small girl who is shown in the illustrations) "Did you ever . . ." do this or that. Turn the page, and on the verso, the conclusion of the realistic question with an answer about something imaginary. Examples: "Did you ever put a mitten on a doorknob and then . . . shake hands with a door?" "Did you ever pull your daddy's hat down over your head and then . . .

think it was nighttime?" "Did you ever warm your pajamas in front of the fire and then . . . get into bed and feel like a tiger sleeping in the sun?" There is a small possibility that the book may stimulate imaginative ideas, but they are the sort of ideas that most children have spontaneously, and they are treated here in a rather flat and certainly repetitive fashion.

McGovern, Ann. . . . if you grew up with Abraham Lincoln; pictures by Brinton Turkle. Four Winds, 1966. 79p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $3.27 net.

R 2-4

Like the author's . . . if you lived in Colonial Times, a simply written and delightfully illustrated book that describes the day-to-day aspects of frontier living; here the book adds some information and some anecdotes about Lincoln. Where would you live? What kind of house would you live in? What was the furniture like? Incorporated into the answers to these and other questions are some facts about how Abe Lincoln (and other boys) dressed, what his chores were, what his frontier cabin was like. The text moves from the Kentucky frontier to New Salem, then to Springfield; thus the author has an excellent opportunity to describe country life, the small town, and the larger town.

Martin, Fredric. The Mystery on Crabapple Hill; illus. by Nathan Goldstein. Little, 1965. 136p. $3.25.

NR 4-6

Billy Boniff and his chum, Phil, are suspicious of the man who has just put up a prefabricated house on the top of a nearby hill. Mr. Curtis says he is an artist, and that he is living on the hill because of the view, but the boys feel sure that Mr. Curtis is a petty thief. The culprit turns out to be the pleasant woman who has been acting as housekeeper while Billy's mother is ill, her thefts of food, clothing, and toys having been perpetrated on behalf of a poor family with nine children. The plot seems quite contrived, all of the suspicious behavior of Mr. Curtis being due to the fact that he was secretly helping a friend who was a police detective.

Merriam, Eve. Miss Tibbett's Typewriter; drawings by Rick Schreiter. Knopf, 1966. 28p. $3.25.

Ad 3-4

An engagingly silly story about an elderly woman who tried to earn some extra cash by typing notices for some local merchants in New York. Unfortunately, Miss Tibbett's first sign read, "We ix lats and enders." The second, "Let us it you with ine ashions. Our prices are air." The typewriter was sent to the repair shop, and came back with the F key working. " oston aked eans" the newly-fixed typewriter produced. After two more trips, the typewriter was pronounced fixed; all letters were working. Miss Tibbetts tried the machine, and it was true; the repair man typed out a receipt reading "Paid?in?full" The style is brisk and breezy, the plot slight; the illustrations are attractive scenes, in black and white, of a heterogeneous neighborhood.

Morrison, Lillian, comp. Sprints and Distances; Sports in Poetry and the Poetry in Sport; illus. by Clare and John Ross. T. Y. Crowell, 1965. 211p. $4.95.

R 6-

A very good poetry anthology: discriminating selection, good format, and—considering the limitations of the subtitle—a surprising range of moods and sources. The poems are grouped into sections entitled "The

Games," "Races and Contests," "Pleasures of the Country" and so forth. Sources are cited; appended are indexes by author, by first line, by title, and by sport.

Miller, Helen Markley. Julie. Doubleday, 1966. 259p. $3.50.

R 7-10 A good late-frontier story, set in Idaho in 1904; sixteen-year-old Julie travels west with her father by stagecoach, having volunteered for the job of keeping house in rough fashion until the rest of the family comes out. Julie's mother and sister are frail and feminine; Julie is a tomboy. Indeed, her chopped-off skirt is an innovation of which not everybody approves—certainly not the handsome Terry. When Julie's pretty sister arrives, she wins Terry; Julie, moping, realizes that she is really in love with brotherly Greg. As a love story, the book is quite patterned; as a picture of a pioneer community, doggedly fighting daily dust storms and hopefully planning irrigation projects, it is quite good: detailed, realistic, and convincing. Characterization is adequate, although not penetrating; the details of period and locale are vivid.

Nelson, Lindsey. Backstage at the Mets; by Lindsey Nelson with Al Hirshberg. Viking, 1966. 180p. $3.95.

Ad 7-10 An amusing book for baseball fans, although it takes some time before the authors get around to the subject of the New York Mets. Nelson's pleasant and capable style of broadcasting translates well into print, although some of the humorous anecdotes seem very Joe Miller: ". . . I wish I could meet Mr. Crosby. I heard him say he was playing a bibulous character. I'm very much interested in the Bible. . . ." The first few chapters really are more about Lindsey Nelson than about the Mets, but they're entertaining, and the book as a whole has a Stengel-happy, rambling, inner-circle-of-baseball appeal.

Palmer, Candida. A Ride on High; illus. by H. Tom Hall. Lippincott, 1966. 26p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.82 net.

R 2-4 An urban story, not unusual in writing style, but particularly useful because it shows two rather young children who can cope with urban transportation and a new experience. Tony and Chet, shown in the illustrations as two attractive Negro boys of eight or nine, are given passes and money so that they can go to a junior high baseball game. Tony loses his return trip token and cannot find it; together the boys work out a solution so that they can get home without help. Tony uses Chet's return token to get back on the elevated platform after hunting vainly below; the boys ride out to the end of the line and change to a homeward-bound train. Pleased with themselves and confident, the youngsters have made one more adjustment to their world.

Peet, William Bartlett. Farewell to Shady Glade; written and illus. by Bill Peet. Houghton, 1966. 38p. Trade ed. $3.25; Library ed. $3.07 net.

Ad K-2 A pleasant read-aloud book about a group of animals that flee from the encroachment of the city; not as farcical as Mr. Peet's books have been in the near past, but with humorous touches in the writing and in the lively illustrations. Shady Glade is a tree-clump community with sixteen year-round residents: five frogs, two possums, a skunk, six rabbits, a bullfrog, and a raccoon who is the leader of the group. The bulldozers

are almost upon Shady Grove, but its residents drop from a tree to the roof of a train; after a long journey, they find another pleasant rural spot and there they all are—presumably—about to live happily ever after as the story ends. The ending is somewhat of an anticlimax; indeed, the slight story line seems only to serve as a frame for the cheerful dialogue, cozy friendship, and the mild but clear message of conservation.

Pillet, Roger A. Andre Francois Villeneuve; photography: De Layne Hudspeth; settings: Nancy Campbell Hays. Follett, 1966. 31p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.75 net.

SpC
1-2

One of a set of two, a picture book with a text for the beginning independent reader; the companion volume (same title) is in French. The identical illustrations are color photographs of animal toys, Andre Francois being a rather wistful blue dog. Andre describes his encounter with a dragon and his rescue of a beautiful princess; Princess Michelle is a white French (naturellement) poodle. The story ends with the presentation of a new little princess, Francoise Villeneuve. The uncluttered pages and large, clear print are excellent for the beginning reader; the style, necessarily repetitive and stilted because of the intended use, is reminiscent of Dick and Jane: "I see the big dragon. I see the mean dragon. I see the big green dragon. I see the mean green dragon. . . ." Dull in itself, but most useful as a companion volume to the French text; not recommended for use alone, but the two books should have value in a foreign language collection. Since the French text may be used for a wide age-range, the assignment of a reading level is based here only on the English text.

Pine, Tillie S. Simple Machines and How We Use Them; by Tillie S. Pine and Joseph Levine; illus. by Bernice Myers. McGraw-Hill, 1965. 48p. $2.50.

R
2-4

A quite good primary text on the six basic simple machines: the pulley, the inclined plane, the wheel-and-axle, the screw, and the wedge. The approach, a good one for the primary reader, is functional; the section on the lever, for example, begins, "What do we use to help us lift things?" Text and illustrations then suggest several home demonstrations for the reader to show how the principle of the lever may be applied. The book then shows some variations of the lever and some of the jobs often calling for a lever. The illustrations are—some of them—rather cluttered, but they do an adequate job of clarifying the examples given in the text.

Platt, Kin. Big Max; with pictures by Robert Lopshire. Harper, 1965. 64p. (I Can Read Books) Trade ed. $1.95; Library ed. $2.19 net.

Ad
1-2

A mystery story for beginning independent readers, the humor depending on sight gags and nonsense, the element of the ridiculous being set off by a bland style and a bland detective. Big Max is a small detective that travels by umbrella; in response to a plea to find a lost royal elephant, Max flies across the sea to the King of Pooka Pooka—very tall. By brilliant logic, Max finds the pet elephant, who has merely decamped temporarily so that he can spend his birthday with his family. So they all have some of Jumbo's cake, and Max raises his umbrella and flies off.

Plotz, Helen, comp. The Earth is the Lord's; Poems of the Spirit; illus. with wood engravings by Clare Leighton. T. Y. Crowell, 1965. 223p. $5.

R 7- An anthology of poetry about man and God, about man's searching, doubting, wondering, believing . . . a fine book that has been compiled with discrimination. The format is dignified and the range of poems wide, with emphasis on the work of contemporary poets. Author and title indexes are appended.

Poole, Lynn. Doctors Who Saved Lives; by Lynn and Gray Poole. Dodd, 1966. 148p. illus. $3.50.

R 8- A good collective biography, the subjects chronologically arranged from the fifteenth century to present times; the men whose lives are described briefly are all doctors who made important contributions to medical science, although that importance was not always recognized in the doctor's lifetime. Some of the subjects are men whose lives have been included in medical biographies fairly often, such as Paracelsus and Fleming. (Several of the greatest doctors of history were described by the Pooles in an earlier collective biography of scientists.) The particular value of this book is that it includes some men who are comparatively little-known; the writing style is serious and the medical material presented authoritatively. An index is appended.

Prieto, Mariana. A Kite for Carlos; Un Papalote Para Carlos; illus. by Lee Smith. Day, 1966. 48p. Library ed. $2.86 net.

M 3-5 In Spanish and English, a story about a small boy living in Florida; his grandfather, who still speaks only Spanish although he has not lived in Cuba for many years, makes Carlos a kite. Carlos asks his mother not to have chicken and yellow rice for his birthday party, because Americans don't eat them and he is "ashamed of being different." Mother says they'll have chicken and they'll also have hot dogs. An unpleasant girl teases Carlos until he takes his kite out, although he hasn't yet learned how to handle it and has been told not to take it out. The kite is ruined and Carlos saddened; Grandfather says that Carlos has learned an important lesson: ". . . we must not listen to others when they urge us to disobey." The separate Spanish text, duplicating the English, is sometimes on the bottom of a page, sometimes on a facing page. The book drags rather heavily, probably because it attempts too much: it is a bilingual text, it is a story that is too brief for two important themes: the major theme of the lesson Carlos learns, and the minor theme of accepting cultural differences. There is also the suggestion of accepting racial differences in the fact that one of the two other boys is Negro. "Sammy rubbed his velvety black nose. 'Up Georgia way, we have grits and pork chops and plenty of gravy. Why can't we have that?' His white teeth were like shiny buttons as he smiled, just thinking about it." The writing is occasionally choppy: "The children were all pleased. They squealed with joy. They clapped their hands. They jumped up and down." With these several weaknesses, the book has limited appeal or use save as an additional source for language study.

Randall, Ruth Elaine (Painter). I Elizabeth; A Biography of the Girl Who Married General George Armstrong Custer of "Custer's Last Stand." Little, 1966. 260p. illus. $4.50.

Ad 7-9

A good biography, despite some weaknesses, not overly fictionalized, and given color by authentic details for which the source materials are listed. The life of Libbie Bacon is romantic enough to be a Victorian novel, and the Civil War background gives the book importance. One weakness is in the author's had-he-but-known tendency: "She would never have dreamed that he was the future war hero who would one day become the most important person in all the world to her." Another is the fact that there is a slightly patronizing note in the descriptions of Negroes, especially in the description of a party the Custers arrange for a servant. The book is not as impartial as is Leighton's Bride of Glory (Ariel, 1962); both books are objective in discussing the controversy over Custer's behavior. The photographs are excellent; an index is appended.

Rees, Ennis. Windwagon Smith; illus. by Peter P. Plasencia. Prentice-Hall, 1966. 48p. $3.75.

Ad 4-5

A retelling of a tall tale based on a story—possibly true—of an 1853 incident in Westport, Missouri, now a part of Kansas City. Windwagon Smith had the idea of putting sails on covered wagons so that they wouldn't need to be pulled by horses; the businessmen of Westport didn't take him seriously until a man from the rival town of St. Joe offered Smith money. Windwagon built a sample vehicle and all his backers went along for the trial run; unfortunately, Windwagon misunderstood a signal and went faster and faster until all the Board of Directors tumbled off, and only Windwagon and his two friends were aboard when the craft disappeared over the horizon. The story is amusing, the retelling just slow-moving enough to vitiate both the pace and the humorous appeal slightly.

Rodman, Bella. Lions in the Way. Follett, 1966. 238p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.96 net.

R 7-10

A contemporary story of school integration in a Tennessee town, a town that had fought the Supreme Court decision for two years before capitulating. Eight students from a Negro high school had been selected to attend Fayette, a hitherto segregated school. All of the residual hostility in the community is stirred by an agitator who establishes a White Crusade. Robby, leader of the eight students, is particularly bitter at the attacks made by Joel, a white boy who had been his best friend when they were small. Two of the eight students drop out; order and cooperation are established after a white minister is severely injured and after the U. S. Army is called in. While the book is a fine documentary novel, it is slightly fragmented as a literary whole, since the emphasis seems to shift from the students to the adults in the story—in each case, portraying people on both sides of the issue. The minister who is injured, for example, moves almost into the role of the protagonist; for the most part, the protagonist is Robby. Despite the minor flaws, an important and an interesting book.

Rowe, Viola. Freckled and Fourteen; illus. by Jacqueline Tomes. Morrow, 1965. 223p. $3.25.

M 6-9

Rusty was a tomboy, and she was irked when her best friend showed signs of becoming interested in boys—especially in Rusty's older brother, Alan. Alan stunned Rusty when he told her that he was going to drop out

of school sports, since he was a popular star player. Rusty was also stunned when she found that her father's file had some adoption papers; she had always wondered why, with four dark-haired brothers, she should have kinky red hair. Miserable, Rusty finally told a family friend; he told her parents, and they gently told their daughter how much they loved her and how they had found it difficult to tell her the truth. When her brothers were told, Rusty felt that they were no longer treating her as a member of the family; a growing coolness between her and Alan was precipitated into a tense situation that almost disrupted the affection between Rusty and her favorite brother. As she tried to act more feminine, Rusty found that she became more feminine; it helped re-establish a rapport with Alan, it helped her in her relationships with other girls, and it helped her with Sammy, the friend who became Rusty's first beau. The book attempts too much to achieve cohesion, what with the themes of adoption, acceptance of sex role, and the conflict between Rusty and Alan that grows into an unpleasant situation when Rusty—hoping to have Alan rejoin the school team—lets him think that their father (the high school coach) is in danger of losing his job because the team has deteriorated.

Tague, Lola F. Melissa and the Valley Belle; illus. by Gertrude Barrer-Russell. Lothrop, 1965. 64p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.84 net.

Ad 3-5

A story set on the canals and waterways of Indiana in 1845. Nine-year-old Melissa and her older brother Dan go on a trip to Lawrenceburg on Uncle Jed's packet, the Valley Belle; while shopping on land, Melissa overhears a plan to stop the Valley Belle from winning a planned race. Uncle Jed is prepared for the sabotage that is tried, so Melissa's information is useful and appreciated; the Valley Belle comes in second, however, to Melissa's disappointment. The story is a bit slow-moving, but quite pleasant in a bland way, and certainly restrained and realistic in plot; it gives a picture of canal life in the nineteenth century that is limited in scope but quite colorful.

Treece, Henry. The Last Viking; illus. by Charles Keeping. Pantheon Books, 1966. 146p. Trade ed. $3.75; Library ed. $3.49 net.

R 6-9

First published in Great Britain in 1964 under the title The Last of the Vikings. Harald Hardrada, last of the Vikings, just before he is killed in battle in England in 1066, remembers his youth; the story moves back to Harald's fifteenth year, when his brother is killed in battle and he escapes with the old Earl Rognvald. Harald travels to Iceland and to Novgorod, the narrative coming back to the scene of the prologue in England just as he is about to go to Miklagard; his last few moments before he is slain end the story. The background is colorful, the action fast-paced, and the characters, although not deeply drawn, are vividly believable.

Bibliographies

Aids To Choosing Books for Children. The Children's Book Council, Inc. 4p. $.15 each; 50 or more, $.10 each. Available from the C.B.C., 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., 10010.

Behavior Patterns in Children's Books. Clara J. Kircher, comp. Catholic University of America Press, Washington, D.C. 132p. $3.75; paper, $1.95.

Books for Friendship, 1962. American Friends Service Committee. 64p. $.50; 1966 supplement, 12p. $.15. Order from Children's Program, A.F.S.C., 160 N. 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19102.

Children's Books 1965. Virginia Haviland and Lois B. Watt, compilers. An annotated list for preschool through junior high school. 16p. $.15. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, G.P.O., Washington, D.C., 20402.

Human Relations, A Basic Booklist. Madison Public Schools, 1965. 21p. $2. Order from the Curriculum Department, M.P. S., 545 W. Dayton Street, Madison, Wisconsin, 53703.

International Understanding Through Books for Children and Young People. Unesco, 1965; pub. by agreement. Sample copies free on request from International Institute for Children's, Juvenile and Popular Literature, Fuhrmannsgasse 18a, A-1080 Vienna, Austria.

Interracial Books for Children. Council for Interracial Books for Children. A new bulletin, to be issued quarterly, the introductory issue free from the Council, 9 East 40th St., New York, N. Y., 10016.

"Literature for Head Start Classes." Bernice Ellinger, in Elementary English, May, 1966.

Magazines for Elementary Grades. Madison Public Schools. Rev. ed. 1965. 27p. paper. $3. Order from the Dept. of Curriculum Development, M.P.S. 545 W. Dayton St., Madison, Wisconsin, 53703.

"Materials for Remedial Reading and Their Use." Cleburne Gilliland in The Reading Teacher, April, 1966.

Monthly Selection Guide for the Children's Department. Detroit Public Library. A compilation of signed annotations, with a separate list of "Books considered but not included." The two lists will run to about 25 pages a month; the subscription price is $5 per year. Make checks payable to the D.P.L. and send with subscription request to the Book Selection Department, 5201 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, 48202.

South and Southeast Asia. U. S. Office of Education, 1965. A bibliography from the Educational Materials Center, Division of Research Training and Dissemination. Order #OE-14031-36, Office of Education, U. S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare.